

Pohoiki Boat Ramp Dredging of Volcanic Debris Draft Environmental Assessment

Virtual Public Meeting

State of Hawai'i

Department of Land and Natural Resources

Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR)

May 10, 2023 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM



VIRTUAL MEETING

- Meeting is being recorded
- Audience on mute
- Virtual meeting supports Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Two methods of communication:
 - Type comments in chat (anytime during meeting)
 - 2 minutes per participant (after the presentation)
- Equal participation will be encouraged
- Comments and responses will be included in Final EA



PROJECT HISTORY

- The Limtiaco Consulting Group (TLCG) is DOBOR's consultant
- Design and coordination by TLCG since 2020
 - 11 meetings and discussions (in person and virtual) including Revitalize Puna workshops held at Pāhoa Gym
 - Public input gathered from community meeting held on August 18, 2022 at the Pāhoa Community Center (discussed design report and proposed alternatives)



CONSULTANTS

- Cultural Surveys Hawaii, Inc.
 - Cultural Impact Assessment
 - Archaeological Literature Review and Field Inspection
- AECOS, Inc. (natural resources)
- Geolabs, Inc. (geotechnical engineering)
- Sea Engineering, Inc. (wave modelling)



PRESENTATION OF DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Overview of Existing Conditions
- Need and Objectives
- Considered Alternatives
- Environmental Conditions
- Next Steps
- EA Questions/Comments

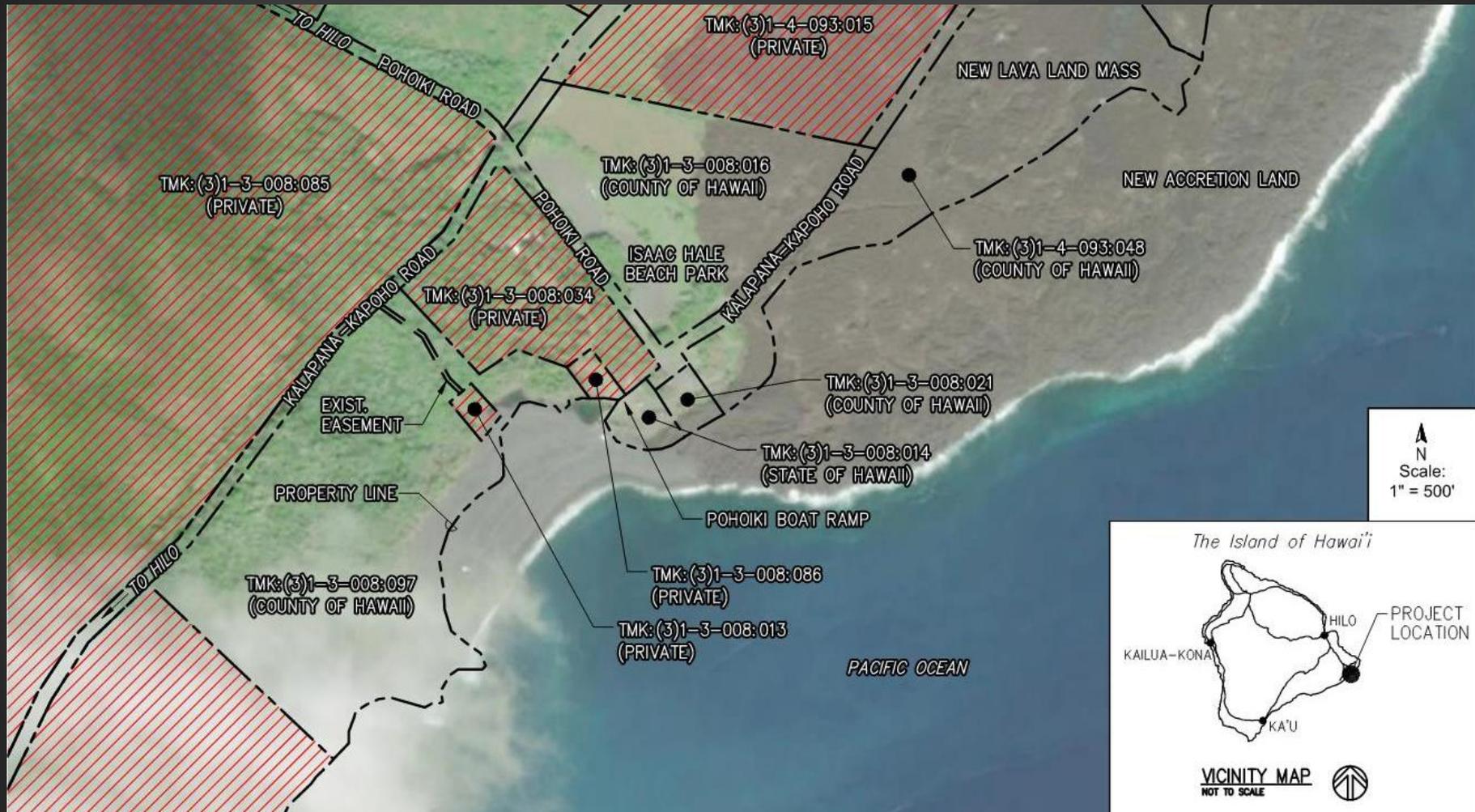


2018 ERUPTION CREATED TWO TYPES OF LAND

- New land mass consisting of new lava layer on existing land
- Accretion land consisting of entirely new land that extends into the Pacific Ocean



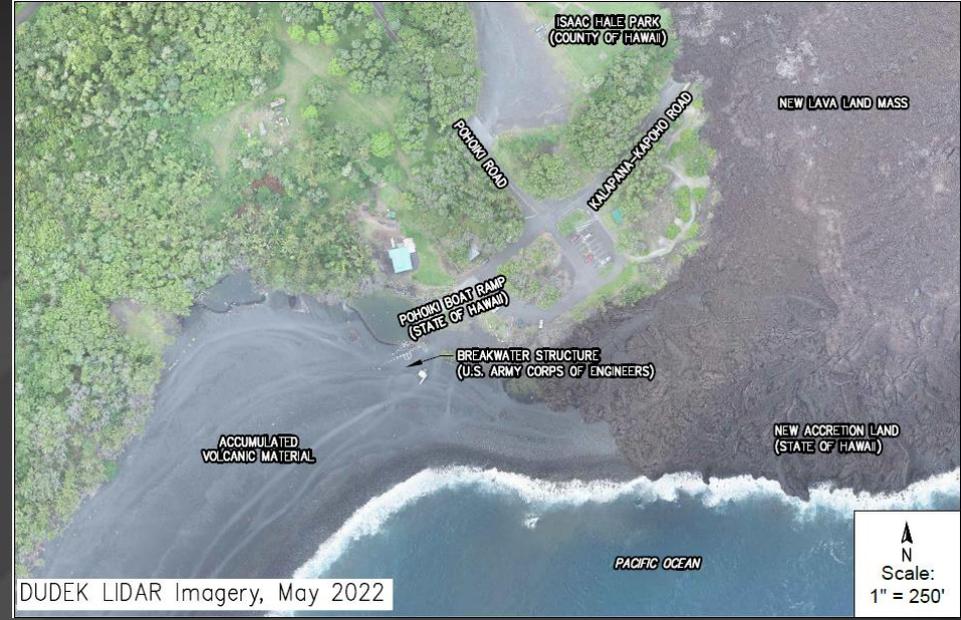
PROJECT LOCATION



POHOIKI BOAT RAMP FACILITY

- Constructed in 1963 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at site of former wharf
- 90-ft-long breakwater structure that protects the boat ramp was completed by the USACE in 1979
- Maintenance dredging in 1999 (completed in 2001)
- DOBOR replaced the entire boat ramp facility in 2008
- Boat ramp facility is owned and maintained by DOBOR





Pohoiki Bay (Pre- and Post-Eruption)

Status of DOBOR's Pohoiki Boat Ramp facility: currently closed and landlocked

Status of USACE's breakwater structure: intact, partially covered by volcanic material





Photo 1 – Landlocked Pohoiki Boat Ramp. March 2022



Photo 2 – New Accretion Land to the East, March 2022

Lava entered the ocean approx. 0.9 miles northeast from Pohoiki Bay at 'Ahalanui Beach Park on July, 12, 2018 and advanced to approx. 230 feet southeast of the boat ramp facility by August 6, 2018. On August 13, 2018, the boat ramp was blocked by a sandbar of accumulated volcanic material.





Photo 3 – Pohoiki Bay Shoreline. March 2022



Photo 4 – Surface Debris with Hawaii Driver's License for Comparison, March 2022

Pohoiki Bay was approximately 1,000 feet wide at the mouth and extended inland approximately 450 feet. The nearshore marine environment was drastically altered by the accumulation of volcanic material that has reduced Pohoiki Bay to a few areas of trapped water.

CURTAILED ACTIVITIES AT POHOIKI BAY

- Food sustainability and cultural practices
- Ocean rescue services
- Commercial fishing
- Ocean/volcano tours
- Recreational opportunities in the water

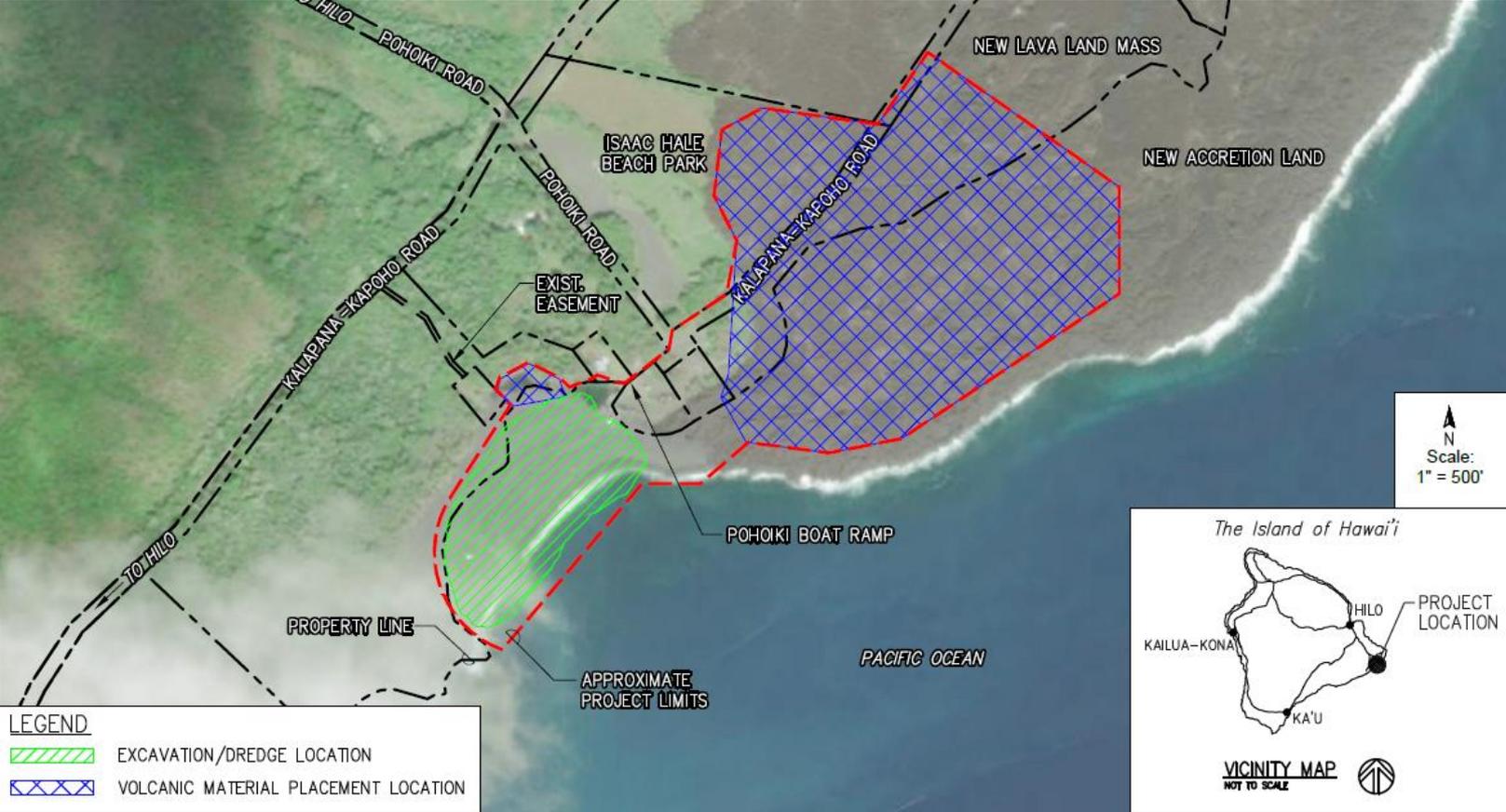


OBJECTIVES OF DOBOR'S PROJECT

- Restore navigational access through excavation and dredging (approx. 175,000 cy of material)
- Support the resumption of previously available services, activities, practices and opportunities
- Return Pohoiki Bay to its pre-eruption shape and depth (to the extent possible with available funding)
- Strategically place excavated and dredged material on new lava, accretion land and backshore area



MATERIAL REMOVAL / NEARBY PLACEMENT



DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATIVES

- Alternative Locations Beyond Pohoiki Bay
- Channel Restoration (requires stabilization)
 - Narrow Channel (Alternative 1)
 - Wide Channel (Alternative 2)
 - Channels and Jetties (Alternative 3)
- No Action
- Restore Pre-Eruption Shape and Depth of Pohoiki Bay (the Preferred Alternative)



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ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- Documented history of prior disturbance and alteration (e.g., wharf constructed during mid-1880s, USACE constructed boat ramp in 1963 and 90-ft-long breakwater structure in 1979, boat ramp facility replacement by DOBOR in 2008)
- Intentionally modified terrain and vegetation; no critical habitat; unlikely to displace listed species
- Pohoiki Warm Springs are mauka of vegetation line



INPUT FROM CONSULTED PARTICIPANTS

- The main continuous cultural practice within the project area is subsistence fishing
- Undesirable activities occurring in project area: nude swimming, littering, trespassing
- Nearby landowners support material placement that eliminates nuisance aspects of ponds, and for improved security and regulation of visitors



ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Nearshore marine environment was drastically altered by 2018 eruption
- Water circulation is disrupted with no connection to the ocean
- Department of Health information about Vibriosis is available from https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease_listing/vibriosis/



DRAFT EA AVAILABILITY

- Publication in *The Environmental Notice* on **April 23, 2023**; there are two ways to access the Draft EA
 - Online library (view or download file)
https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/Doc_Library/2023-04-23-HA-DEA-Pohoiki-Boat-Ramp-Dredging-of-Volcanic-Debris.pdf
 - Public Libraries
Pāhoa, Mountain View, Kea‘au, Hilo, and the Hawai‘i State Library (in Honolulu, O‘ahu)
- Draft EA comment deadline is **May 23, 2023**



Overall Project Next Steps

January 2023	Preliminary Design Submittal
April 23, 2023	Draft EA published
May 15, 2023	Pre-Final Design
May 23, 2023	Draft EA comment deadline
July 2023	Final EA published
September 4, 2023	Final Design
October 31, 2023*	Bid Advertise*
June 2024*	Completed Construction*





THE LIMTIACO CONSULTING GROUP
CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Thank you and stay safe!



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Testimony or Draft EA Comments

General Rules:

- **TYPE** in Chat Box
- **RAISE HAND** if you want to ask a question or provide testimony
- Please be respectful and to the point when unmuted
- 2 minutes



THE LIMTIACO CONSULTING GROUP
CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Send Draft EA comments to:

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